

Message Text

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RUFHOHBXAMEBASSY ROME 0329

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MONTREAL FOR ICAO; PARIS FOR UNESCO; ROME FOR FODAG;
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TAGS: EAID, UNDP, NG

SUBJECT: CERP-0008; EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: NIGER

REF: A. STATE 64907; B. NIAMEY A-22 OF MARCH 29, 1974

SUMMARY: UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS NIGER HAVE BEEN RESTRUCTURED
AND IMPROVED OVER PAST 18 MONTHS BY STRONG AND CAPABLE RESREP
AND ARE MAKING SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEETING NIGER'S
DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.

RESPONSES KEYZE TO REFTTEL

A. UNDO RESREP ALEXANDER ROTIVAL (US CITIZEN) PLAYS STRONG
AND ACTIVE ROLE IN CCORDINATING UNDP AND ALL OTHER UN TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE. HIS RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT ARE EXCELLENT. HE
IS HIGHLY RESPECTED AND HAS READY ACCESS TO ALL LEVELS OF GON,
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INCLUDING PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE AND VICE PRESIDENT SANI

WHO ALSO CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. IBRD IS REPRESENTED BY ABIDJAN-BASED PERSONNEL. COORDINATION WITH UNDP IS EFFECTIVE WITH UNDP PROVIDING IN-COUNTRY BACKSTOPPING TO IBRD. UNICEF IS UNDER FIRM CONTROL OF UNDP RESREP WITH INTEGRATED APPROACH ON SEVERAL PROJECTS.

B. WHILE FORMAL COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REMAINS ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY OF GON, THE UN RESREP BY CONSENSUS HAS TAKEN UPON HIMSELF SEVERAL ASPECTS OF INFORMAL COORDINATION AMONG DONORS. EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF DURING PAST 18 MONTHS HAS BEEN COORDINATED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH RESREP. LONGER TERM PROJECTS CONNECTED WITH DROUGHT RECOVERY ARE OFTEN DISCUSSED WITH RESREP, WHO DISSEMINATES INFORMATION TO OTHER DONORS. HOST GOVERNMENT SEEMS WELCOME TO UNDP AS INFORMAL COORDINATOR OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

C. REGARDLESS OF PARENT ORGANIZATION OF VARIOUS UN MISSIONS, ADVISORS AND MISSIONS IN NIGER, RESREP THROUGH HIS STRONG LEADERSHIP AND PERSONALITY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN FORGING UNIFIED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. EFFECTIVENESS OF CURRENT RESREP IN NIGER IN DEALINGS WITH UN SYSTEM ACTIVITIES (AS WELL AS OTHER DONORS) LARGELY RESULT OF HIS PERSONALITY RATHER THAN ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.

D. COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR NIGER WAS APPROVED JANUARY 1974. FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 1975. IT IS EXPECTED THAT AFRICAN REGIONAL DIRECTOR DOO-KI GUE WILL PARTICIPATE IN REVIEW. RESREP HAS BEEN RECEPTIVE TO OUR AND OTHER DONORS' VIEWS REGARDING UN PROJECTS.

E. THERE IS FREQUENT CONTACT BETWEEN THE UNDP STAFF AND THE MISSION. THERE HAS BEEN NO MISSION STAFF MEMBER SPECIFICALLY NOMINATED AS LIAISON OFFICER SINCE COORDINATION BETWEEN MISSION AND AMBASSADOR, DCM AND AID/RDO CONTINUES TO BE CLOSE.

F. THE UNDP PROGRAM IN NIGER IS NOW ON RIGHT PATH AND UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOULD SHOW IMPROVED RESULTS IN FUTURE. MAJOR ONGOING PROJECTS FOR NIGER ARE THE FOLLOWING: PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP (71-523); NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION (71-520); WELL DRILLING (72-006); AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MANAGER OF MIXED-CAPITAL ENTERPRISES 7(2-0736 NEW PROJECTS RECENTLY APPROVED ARE RURAL RESOURCES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT KOLO (74-007); MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE ENTERPRISES (74-014);

STRENGTHENING OF INSTITUTE FOR PEDAGOGICAL RESEARCH AND EVALUATION (EDUCATIONAL REFORM) (74-015); PILOT PROJECT FOR ERADICATION OF TRYPANOSOMIASIS (74-002); AND NATIONAL CENSUS THROUGH USE OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND WITH SELECTED GROUND VERIFICATION (75-001).

THE PRUNING EXERCISE OF UN PROJECTS WHICH BEGAN UNDER THE RESREP'S DIRECTION EARLY LAST YEAR, HAS CONTINUED (REF B). SEVERAL ADDITIONAL UNSUCCESSFUL PROJECTS WERE PHASED OUT IN LATE 1974 INCLUDING DALLOL MAOURI AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME AND SOTRAMIL (MILLET AND SORGHUM PROCESSING PLANT AT ZINDER). BECAUSE OF THE AMOUNT OF PRIOR INVESTMENT AND IMPORTANCE WHICH GON PLACES IN CERTAIN UNDP PROJECTS WHICH HAVE AS YET NOT BEEN CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL, UNDP HAS DECIDED TO RESTRUCTURE RATHER THAN ABANDON THEM. PRIME EXAMPLE IN THIS CATEGORY IS MALBAZA CEMENT FACTORY WHICH HAS NEVER PERFORMED UP TO EXPECTATIONS BUT WHICH GON HOPES CAN BE RESCUED. IN FINAL EFFORT TO PUT THE PLANT ON PROFITABLE BASIS, UNDP HAS INVITED UNIDO AND CANADIAN PRIVATE EXPERTS TO DRAW UP NEW PLAN OF OPERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF HOW MUCH ADDITIONAL CAPITAL WILL BE REQUIRED.

UN PROJECT EXECUTION HAS NOT BEEN HELD UP BECAUSE OF DELAYS OR DEFICIENCIES OF GON COUNTERPART CONTRIBUTIONS AND PERSONNEL SINCE UNDP IN FORMULATING PROJECTS REALISTICALLY CONSIDERS THAT GON CONTRIBUTIONS MUST OF NECESSITY BE MINIMAL.

G. EACH NIGER PROJECT IS REVIEWED AT LEAST SEMI-ANNUALLY AND THOSE PROJECTS IN TROUBLE ARE GIVEN QUARTERLY REVIEWS. RESREP HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT HE IS NOT WEDDED TO ANY PROJECT
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AND HE HAS THUS BEEN SEVERELY OBJECTIVE IN JUDGING WHETHER A FLOUNDERING PROJECT SHOULD BE ABANDONED, CUT BACK, STRENGTHENED OR RESTRUCTURED.

H. UNDP/NIGER HAS NOT DEVELOPED ANY NEW PROJECTS PARTICULARLY AIMED AT ADDRESSING QUESTION OF WOMEN'S ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT. SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING SCHOOL HAVE, HOWEVER, SHOWN HIGHER RATIOS OF WOMEN ADMITTED. BUCHE

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